

Thirty-Third Sunday Ordinary time "C" ~ November 16, 2025

Malachi 3:19-20a; Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19

Homily ~ Father Ed Hislop - 5:00 pm Mass

We could wonder, as we gather again to be nurtured with good news, and nourished together at this Table, how in a world of so much bad news and among so many caught in famines, plagues, insurrections, lies, and hatred: what difference does this gathering make, or what difference does the gathering of the whole church make in such a world. How *"after the example of Christ and at his command,"* do we stand as *"living witnesses,"* and work for mercy and compassion, *"that all people may be raised up by the hope of a world made new?"*

We might wonder, but we also remember. We remember, so we *"work"* to hear, see, and care: we work, and so we can eat and drink again at this table. Here we finally remember what we can so easily forget in the midst of turmoil: God is with us, Christ is present, the Spirit still inspires, and we have been made worthy of the *"work."* So, we carry on despite the accomplishments and victories; the failures and disappointments of ourselves and others. Here we dare to remember that no one earns a place at this Supper but are rather drawn here by the burning desire of Jesus himself to eat and drink with the many. Pope Francis Desiderio Desideravi #4 The desire to feed us for the *"work"* of belonging and believing: the *"work"* of engaging in service *"for the many;"* the *"work"* of seeing, hearing, and persevering. The *"work"* of speaking together, with a *"burning desire,"* a word of hope and justice, that will rouse, inspire, intrigue, and welcome the many. This is the *"work,"* in the middle of everything, to which we are invited, if we want to eat and drink.

Here we are nourished for the *"work"* we *must* do in his memory: To take, bless, break, share, pour and give, what we have, sometimes in *"toil and*

drudgery," with a *"burning desire"* to serve and welcome all. Then we can eat and drink because we have *"worked."*

From this Table we *"look into the signs of the times by the light of faith;"* and in the labor of seeing, devote ourselves to the *"service of the Gospel"* even in the midst of *"evil doing,"* ominous events, unexpected turns, hate-filled unwelcome and *"violent rounding up"* to imprison, separate, and send away: the *"wars, insurrections, powerful earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, floods, famine, and plagues,"* of these days. We are here, so we remember *"not to be deceived when many come saying, 'I am the one,' 'the time has come.'"* Do not follow them, we are told. We have Christ, or rather Christ has us.

It is the news he brings and the way he leads that inspires us, opens our eyes and hearts to truth in ways that re-creates and renews each of us, again and again, so *"that all people may be raised up by the hope of world made new,"* a newness from which there is no going back; no going back, from the vision and work of Christ *"who always shows compassion for children and for the poor, for the sick and for sinners, who himself is neighbor to the oppressed and the afflicted."*

Here we encounter Christ who invites us to follow him as his Church, his disciples, as he walks with the whole human family on the journey of life, particularly these days, *"when we are disturbed as we see among our immigrant brothers and sisters,"* our neighbors, right here in Missoula, Lolo, Stevensville, Hamilton, and beyond *"a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the vilification of immigrants, and conditions*

in so-called detention centers where the lack of access to pastoral care” is denied.

USCCB, special message on immigration, November 2025

Like Christ we are not to speak or act in a “disorderly way” but in “toil and drudgery, night and day,” we are to announce and live the way of Christ’s merciful compassion and generous hospitality. We must, in the words of the Bishops of the United States in a statement this past week, “oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people”—people—and speak for an end to “dehumanizing rhetoric and violence,” regardless of who it is directed to. We, with the whole Church, are nourished here to live and speak the vision of the Gospel with courage and respect, and to raise up “the sun of justice with its healing rays.” We are fed for this kind of “work,” this way of living with a “burning desire” to serve and welcome. This we are to do in memory of Christ and at his command.

Such a way and faith, such remembering, is often filled with risks, as Luke reminds us; a vision which has brought and does bring persecution to some, and to others, “hatred,” ridicule, rejection, and consternation.

Still, we must feel the need to walk, go, and work with “the many” who labor and are burdened; to listen to the lost, forgotten, sent away, profiled, judged, and those who have been unheard and uncared for. We, as people of the Gospel, as people of the Lord’s Table, are committed to “the toil and drudgery” of that work.

We are nourished to work at becoming who we are—the voice of God, the compassion of Christ, and the fiery vision of the Holy Spirit. We need to want to do the work of “looking into the signs of the times by the light of faith,” even if ridiculed, scorned, or ignored.

We can endure prophets of doom who are sure the end is near; who preach a message of fear discouragement, exclusion, and superiority. We can endure because we have been to this Table; we eat and drink here because we “work!” We believe and feel that “there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays,” remembering that only the truth of justice can bring healing.

**“BY OUR PERSEVERANCE
WE WILL SECURE OUR LIVES.”**

Sources: “Desiderio Desideravi” (on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God), Pope Francis;
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Special Message on Immigration, November 2025;
Eucharistic Prayer For Use In Masses For Various Needs IV: Jesus Who Went About Doing Good, The Roman Missal
The Liturgy of the Word, Thirty-third Sunday Ordinary time, Year C



Tapestry for the Saints, Our Lady of Angels Cathedral, Los Angeles, California